

Habitat Working Group Update



Advisory Committee
August 17, 2005

Update on Habitat Working Group

◆ **Second Meeting: August 9 in Ontario**

◆ **Topics addressed**

- **Habitat goals and conservation objectives**
- **Quantification of existing habitats**
- **Bird habitat modeling**
- **General restoration approach**
- **Alternatives**

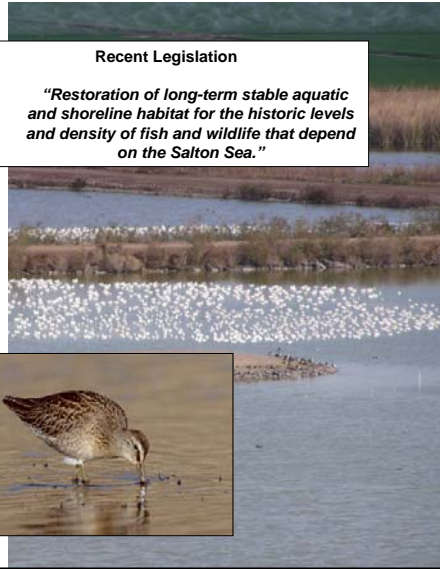
Habitat Goals and Objectives

◆ Input

- level of restoration and consistency with the intent of the term “historic” in the legislation
- species goals and habitat goals
- Dedicated, fully funded science entity charged with the responsibility of research and monitoring

Recent Legislation

“Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and density of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea.”



Quantification of Current Habitats

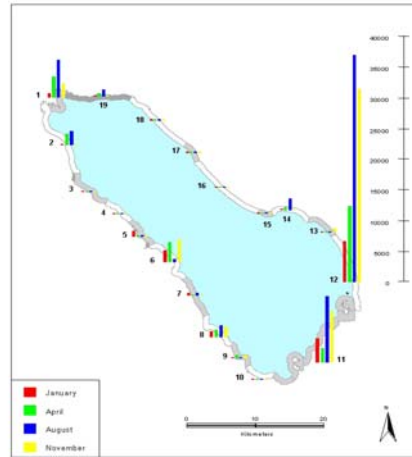
- ◆ Developed estimates of the current acreage of habitats at and around the Salton Sea
- ◆ Reviewed other habitat creation efforts in the area
- ◆ Input
 - increase estimate of current shallow water habitat along Salton Sea to account for changes in water surface elevation
 - reconcile acreage of seasonal freshwater marsh on refuges and duck clubs



PRBO Bird Habitat Modeling

◆ Update on modeling activities

- Objectives
- Data requirements
- Habitat/species associations
- Model limitations



General Restoration Approach/Opportunities

Preserve

- Agricultural Habitats
- Tree/Shrub Habitat
- Freshwater Marsh

Enhance/Restore

- Open Water (Salton Sea)
- Shoreline/Shallow (Salton Sea)
- Islands and Snags
- Estuaries/Deltas (river mouths)

Create

- Freshwater Marsh
- Saline Wetland
- Native Tree Habitat

Habitat Working Group
Next Steps

- ◆ **Next meeting September 8**
- ◆ **Revise and refine goals and objectives**
- ◆ **Refine estimate of current habitats**
- ◆ **Develop estimates of habitats for alternative scenarios and identify tradeoffs**